SECRET

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May 26, 1962 - Saturday

Andrew took us this morning on what any professional would have considered the best of guided tours. We emerged into a dreary and rainy exterior, to view the unending glass houses and gardens. The work of Paxton, Capability Brown, and other collaborators in the embellishment of this fantastic place were pointed out and explained. The waterfalls, spouts, geysers, lakes, ponds, river, are noteworthy. The whimsicality of various owners, has been expressed in cairns of huge rocks, remote bandstands, tea arbors, and whatnots, including a bronze tree gushing water.

In the course of the afternoon and evening, other guests flowed in, including Mrs. Stirling and the Richard Sykes.

A group of us took off to Hardwick Hall, the creation of Bess, Countess of Shrewsbury, whose wealth, accumulated during four marriages, one to a Cavendish, and a life of indomitable intrigue, enabled her to plant as heavy a series of loads on the soil as ever a Roman Emperor. Hardwick now belongs to the National Trust. Osbert Sitwell regards it as the most interesting house in England. It may be, for its tapestries, pictures and furniture remain as they were at the time they were originally installed, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

We made merry at Chatsworth this evening. This couple is, on both sides, delightful. They are indifferent to convention. ~~A daughter, Emma, was named after~~ a pet goat, the son Peregrine after a jockey, and the other child, Sophia, for, it is said, a cat.

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Deborah had made a speech this afternoon, and was back in top form before dinner.

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